(b) if so, the salient features of the national action plan;

(c) the efforts of his Ministry to shift industries to low-carbon emission economies;

(d) whether involvement of private companies is depicted in the plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a), (b), (d) and (e) In the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Cange held in July 2007, *inter-alia* it was decided that a National Action Plan on climate change will be prepared. This Report is under preparation.

(c) Although India as a developing country does not have any mitigation commitments, however, a sustainable development path is being followed in India by a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change;

i. ensuring energy conservation and improved energy efficiency in various sectors as well as setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency

ii. promoting use of renewable energy

iii. power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme

iv. use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport

v. fuel switching to cleaner energy

vi. afforestation and conservation of forests

vii. promotion of clean coal technologies

viii. reduction of gas flaring

ix. encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems

x. environmental quality management for all sectors.

Funds for cleaning of river Yamuna

2224. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial allocations made and spent for saving the river Yamuna from pollution and environmental degradation so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that though crores of rupees have been spent, no significant measure has been put in place that is effective enough to check pollution of the river;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up an Inquiry Commission to inquire into large scale misuse and diversion of the funds released for cleaning of Yamuna; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Government of India has luanched Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for the abatement of pollution in river Yamuna with the assistance of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in a phased manner. YAP, Phase-I was launched in

April, 1993, and declared closed in February, 2003. YAP-Phase-II was commenced in December, 2004. The total approved cost of both the phases of Yamuna Action Plan is Rs. 1339 crores and expenditure incurred so far under both the phases is 719.76 crores. In addition to the YAP, the Government of NCT of Delhi has also taken up large scale pollution abatement works for river Yamuna from its own resources. In this regard Delhi Jal Board has envisaged the laying of interceptor sewers along major drains, augmentation of sewage treatment plants, interception of small drains, rehabilitation of trunk sewers and construction of additional sewage treatment plants.

A total of 269 schemes have been Implemented in 21 towns of the threa States of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and 753.25 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity has been created so far under both the phases of YAP. As per the water quality monitoring of river Yamuna conducted by independent reputed institutions, while the water quality of river Yamuna is within the prescribed limits in the State of Haryana, it has not shown the desired improvement in Delhi and some parts of U.P. because of phenomenal increase of population upstream of the river and lack of availability of fresh water for ensuring minimum flow in the river.

The pollution abatement works are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments functioning under their control. No misuse/diversion of the funds under YAP has come to the notice of the Ministry requiring yetting up of an inquiry commission.

Conservation of ponds

†2225. SHRI BANWARJ LAL KANCHHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that level of ground water is depleting constantly and taking note of this scenario Hon'ble High Court has issued strict instructions for conservation of ponds;

(b) the number of conserved ponds in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether Government is doing extra efforts to check depletion in the level of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As reported by Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, ground water level has declined in some parts of the country. As per the assessment of ground water resources carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CG WB) arid the States in 2004, the ground water resource assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/Talukas) in various states of the country are categorized as Over-exploited, Critical and Semi-critical based on the stage of ground water development and the long term water level declining trend either in pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both during the past decade (1995—2004). Out of 5723 such assessment units, 839 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited', 226 units are reported to be 'Critical' whereas 550 units have been identified as 'Semi-critical'.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.